

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 HEW-04
INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 DHA-02 SCA-01 EB-08 ORM-02
SSO-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 /053 W
-----252249 051235 /73

O R 251500Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9524

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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AF/S FOR WISNER

D/HA FOR WILSON

AID/OFDA FOR ANDERSON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, SREF, BC

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY RELIEF FOR ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEES IN BOTSWANA

REF: GABORONE 212

1. THIS MESSAGE REQUESTS ACTION IN LIGHT OF THE NEED FOR EMERGENCY
REFUGEE HOUSING FORESEEN PARA 3 C OF REFTL THAT HAS NOW
MATERIALIZED.

2. IN PART THIS NEED WAS CRYSTALLIZED AND ARTICULATED BY VISIT OF UN
FARAH MISSION; IN PART IT RESULTS FROM REAL INCREASE IN NUMBERS
OF ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEES. AS OF FEB. 19, THERE WERE 719 PEOPLE IN
FRENCHTOWN CENTER, PLUS SOME 500 MORE AT SELEBI-PIKWE. MEAN-WHILE,
537 MORE HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY ARRIVED AT FRANCISTOWN WHILE 235
HAVE DEPARTED, FOR NET TOTAL OF ABOUT 1500 REFUGEES IN BOTH
PLACES. FRANCISTOWN CENTER ORIGINALLY DESIGNED FOR 250 PEOPLE,
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AND CONDITIONS THERE DESCRIBED BY UNHCR EYEWITNESS AS TRULY
APPALLING, WITH WALL-TO-WALL PEOPLE, MINIMAL SANTIARY FACILITIES, ETC.

SELEBI-PIKWE BELIEVED TO BE EVEN WORSE.

3. UNHCR REP HERE AND GOB (STEVENS, MINFIN) HAVE INDEPENDENTLY
CALLED TO ASK MOST URGENTLY IF USG, THROUGH DISASTER RELIEF,

COULD SUPPLY TENTS PLUS SUPPORT EQUIPMENT FOR 500 PEOPLE. THIS EQUIPMENT WOULD HAVE TO AIRFRIGHTED, (WE HOPE USG CAN ALSO DEFRAID COSTS OF INITIAL SHIPMENT) AS NEED IS TRULY URGENT. IF USG CAN ACT ON TIMELY BASIS, PLEASE LET US KNOW SIZE OF TENT AVAILABLE SO GOB CAN BEGIN PREPARING HARDSTANDS NOW.

4. ABOVE REQUEST IS RESULT OF MEETING BETWEEN GOB AND FARAH MISSION. EVENTS MOVING QUICKLY, AND GOB REQUIRES DEFINITE ANSWER BY EARLY NEXT WEEK. WE SHALL BE RECEIVING WRITTEN REQUEST FROM GOB SHORTLY. MEANWHILE WE WOULD APPRECIATE STATE/AID'S MOST EXPEDITIOUS HANDLING OF THIS URGENT REQUEST.

5. COMMENT: DEPARTMENT NEED NOT BE REMINDED OF VIGOROUS CRITICISM ENGENDERED HERE BY OUR ABSTENTION ON UNSC RESOLUTION ON RHODESIAS VIOLATIONS OF BOTSWANA TERRITORY. AT THAT TIME USG REP EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR ECONOMIC AND OTHER ASSISTANCE TO COMPENSATE BOTSWANA FOR THE DAMAGE BEING INCURRED DUE TO RHODESIAN SITUATION. THIS IS THE CHANCE FOR US TO BACK OUR GOOD INTENTIONS BY VISIBLE DEEDS.

6 ACTION REQUESTED: EMERGENCY REFUGEE HOUSING ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF TENTS AND SUPPORTING EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING COTS, TO MEET ELEMENTAL NEEDS FOR SHELTER FOR FIVE HUNDRED ZIMBABWEANS IN FRENCHISTOWN AREA. GOB REQUIRES US REPLY TO ABOVE REQUEST NO LATER THAN OPENING OF BUSINESS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2.
NORLAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RELIEF, DISASTER RELIEF, HOUSING, LIVING CONDITIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Litigation History:
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